Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

Gandhi Mohandes Karamchand, nicknamed Mahatma, which means "great soul" was the most important Indian politician of this century and the chief builder of Indian Independence (1947). He studied in Britain for three years and became a lawyer. In London, he met writers and cultured figures who led simple lives and were vegetarians like him. They were idealist and believed cooperation was better than conflict. One of these was George Bernard Shaw, the Irish playwright. In fact it was in Europe that Gandhi first experienced the values of non-violence that made him so important for India later.

When he returned to India in 1891, he realized there were no opportunities for his profession. So, he went to South Africa to work with the Indian population who lived there. In South Africa he knew racial discrimination existed, and he decided to fight to improve the situation. He became the spokesman for the Indian population in South Africa.

In 1914 he returned to India and began to work for his people. In 1919 the Amritsar Massacre, a consequence of the Indian rebellion against the British, gave Gandhi the ideal conditions in which to launch his ingenious campaign of non-violent civil disobedience.

As a consequence, 1922 he was arrested and imprisoned. He was released in 1924 and for six years he did not take part in politics, even though, throughout the decade of the twenties, disorder, communal riots, and strikes remained endemic in India. In 1930, he organized a Satyagraha (non-violent resistance) against the salt tax; as a consequence, 60,000 people were arrested. He was again imprisoned and he began the first of his famous fasts. Finally, in 1947 India became independent. A year later Gandhi was assassinated by a young Hindu fanatic.

1. **Complete these sentences with the missing words given on the right in scrambled order:**
   Mahatma Gandhi was .... of Indian Independence. In Britain, where he studied to become ...., he .... writers and cultured figures, among which ....,the famous Irish playwright. Here he first experienced .... of non violence. He went to South Africa where he .... to improve the Indian condition. Back in India, after the Amritsar Massacre, he .... his campaign of non-violent civil disobedience. ....he was imprisoned. In 1930 he organized a

.... resistance, he was arrested again and .... In 1948, one year after the Independence, he was .... by a young Hindu.

2. **Make a summary**:
Link the sentences given in the activity above using also connectors, such as then, but, and, as soon as, therefore, etc.